GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3408
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
AMENDMENT IN INSECTICIDES ACT
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to amend the Insecticides Act to provide strict punishment to manufacturer of spurious pesticides;

(b) if so, the details of the changes likely to be made;

(c) whether any meeting with State Government representatives of pesticide industry was held in this connection; and

(d) if so, the details of the suggestions given by them and action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): There is a proposal to amend the Insecticides Act,1968 to ensure effective enforcement of certain provisions of the Act including enhancement of penalty to the manufacturers of spurious pesticides. The State Governments and the PesticidesIndustry have also been consulted. Important changes likely to be made and suggestions received from the States / Pesticide Associations are given in Annexure-I.

Annexure-I

(1). Presently, there is just one category i.e. `misbranded` for offences relating to quality of pesticides whether the offences are of minor nature or of serious nature. It is now proposed to make three categories, i.e. `misbranded`, `sub-standard` and `spurious` and accordingly provide for graded punishment. The pesticides associations have suggested for provision of compounding of the offences also.

(2). Section 9 (3) be amended so as to provide protection of 3 years to the first registrant. Further, Section 9 which deals with registration does not have any provision for suspension or cancellation of registration, which has now been proposed. A few associations have opposed this amendment.

(3). Section 13 which deals with grant of license for manufacture, sale, stock, exhibit for sale or exhibit any insecticide is proposed to be amended to provide for qualifications for grant of such licences. Further, a sub-section 6 is proposed to be inserted waiving off the requirement of licence for the retailers to sell,stock, etc. any household insecticide. A single category licence for distributors, depot holders and stockists is proposed for household insecticides.

(4). Section 21 is proposed to be amended so as to provide for stoppage of sale for seven days by the Insecticide Inspector in case a sample is found to be sub- standard/spurious. The sale can be stopped beyond seven days only by an officer not below the rank of Joint Director (Agriculture).